



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pictured Rocks
National Lakeshore

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Pictured Rocks News Release

November 18, 2004

For Immediate Release

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Pictured Rocks Publishes Personal Watercraft Proposed Rule

(Munising, MI) The National Park Service (NPS) has proposed designating areas where personal watercraft (PWC) may be used in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. This proposed rule implements the provisions of the NPS general regulations that authorize parks to allow the use of PWC by promulgating a special regulation. The NPS Management Policies (2001) require individual parks to determine whether PWC use is appropriate for their specific park based on an evaluation of that area's enabling legislation, resources and values, other visitor uses, and overall management objectives.

An environmental assessment on PWC use at Pictured Rocks was available for public review and comment from August 1 through November 15, 2002. The environmental assessment evaluated a range of alternatives and strategies for the management of PWC use at Pictured Rocks to ensure the protection of park resources and values while offering recreational opportunities as provided for in the national lakeshore's enabling legislation, purpose, mission, and goals.

The environmental assessment evaluated three alternatives addressing the use of PWC at Pictured Rocks. The lakeshore's preferred alternative would allow PWC to operate on the waters of Lake Superior within the boundaries of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore from the western boundary of the lakeshore up to the east end of Miners Beach. This alternative would allow PWC to launch from a designated site at Sand Point. PWC users would be allowed to beach their craft on Sand Point and Miners Beaches. PWC would not be allowed to launch or operate elsewhere within the national lakeshore.

The proposed rule for PWC use at Pictured Rocks was published in the "Federal Register" on November 15, 2004 (www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/, Volume 69, Number 219, Pages 65556-65563). The 60-day comment period for the proposed rule ends January 14, 2005.

Following the comment period, the comments are analyzed and a final rule is prepared, which is reviewed again by NPS staff. The final rule will be published in the "Federal Register" and becomes effective 30 days from this date of publication.

Comments on the proposed rule may be addressed to Superintendent Karen Gustin, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, PO Box 40, Munising, MI 49862. Comments may also be sent by e-mail to piro@den.nps.gov. Please include "PWC rule" in the subject line and your name and return address in the body of your e-mail.

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